

AUCTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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An auction management system that consolidates auction posting, monitoring, and closing for multiple auction users on multiple auction sites. An auction consolidator provides an Internet interface between auction sellers, auction buyers, and auction sites. The auction management system provides a unified platform where sellers post auction submissions, enter auction tracking data, and enter auction feedback for multiple auctions on multiple auction sites. Similarly, auction buyers monitor auction status, receive winner notification, enter auction tracking data, and enter auction feedback for multiple auctions on multiple auction sites. To support these functions, the auction management system compiles and posts auction submissions, automatically accesses the auction sites to extract auction status and closed auction data, and provides auction feedback to multiple auction sites on behalf of multiple auction users. The auction management system includes several Internet web servers that function as user interface platforms. An application server and a relational database support the integrated operations of the system. The Application server includes an "auction monitor" module that maintains a consolidated auction monitoring report for each account maintained on the system. The auction monitor module includes tracking entries that allows auction buyers and sellers to keep track of the status of their closed auctions. The auction monitor module also automates certain post-closing tacking functions, such as notifying the winning bidder, and supports automatic auction feedback to the host auction site.